

CLERK: Mr. President, 126, the E & R amendments have been adopted. They were adopted on February 6. There was then under a consideration by the Legislature, a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill. That did lay it over at the time. Senator Remmers has a motion now pending, Mr. President, to indefinitely postpone LB 126.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have order, please. The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's been some time since we addressed this. Been a couple of weeks. We passed over it several times. I hope that you will give some consideration to what I am going to say. You've probably heard much of it before, but I'd like to go back and review the bill again. I know that a number of senators did not understand the bill, have admitted to me, quite frankly, that they did not understand the bill. I could never understand why it got the support that it did, but I believe because the senators did not understand it. I have called a number of school superintendents the last few weeks and I haven't talked to a one that understood the weatherization bill, where the money was coming from, that understood this was not new money. And after I explained the bill to them every one of them agreed that in 1986 would be the time to sunset the bill and turn that money to the state aid programs, the Foundation of Equalization Aid, where the money will go if this bill sunsets. In 1955 the State Legislature decided that severance tax money should go in the permanent school fund. The idea, of course, was to save something for tomorrow that we've spent our resources today, when the oil is gone, that there is something left for education tomorrow. Now I know that some people prefer to spend the money today rather than worrying...and let somebody else worry about tomorrow. So my first opposition to this bill was that this money was not new money, severance tax money. The Legislature, as I said, had decided 25 years ago, 30 years ago that that should be permanent school fund money. We did add 1 percent severance tax, but again, the philosophy was that this money should have gone to the permanent school fund. Now I can accept the money in the foundation aid and the equalization aid for state aid to education because it will go to the schools, but what I can't accept is that we're taking some of this weatherization money to fund a bureaucracy and I think, as